

## ***What you can do:***

Always clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash, in a sealed or tied plastic bag. Commercial “scoopers can also be purchased to make proper disposal even easier. Some are disposable and come with biodegradable, sealable bags. Check pet stores and catalogs.

Encourage your neighbor and other pet owners to be responsible; it’s not hard, and it’s an important part of the responsibility you have owning a pet.

## ***What you should not do:***

Don’t dispose of pet waste in a catch basin, storm drain, or on the street.

Don’t use pet waste as a fertilizer. The bacteria in pet waste does far more harm than good.

Don’t add pet waste to a compost pile. The pile will not get hot enough to kill the disease-causing organisms.



**For more information about preventing Storm  
Water Pollution Contact:**

City Of Wichita Falls Public Works  
1300 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wichita Falls, TX 76307  
(940) 761-7670

***Pick Up The POO!***

***PET WASTE***



***PET WASTE IS A HEALTH HAZARD  
AND A WATER POLLUTANT.***

***PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS AND  
YOUR HEALTH..***

## ***Did you know***

Storm Water runoff in the city of Wichita Falls is not treated, but goes directly into our streams and creeks. That is why it is important to insure that pollutants such as pet waste, soaps and dirt from car washing, automotive fluids, trash, garbage and chemicals do not end up in the storm drains.

Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that can run off into or streams and creeks either directly or through our storm sewer systems. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that pollution from this runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the United States.

Everyday personal actions you take can have a significant impact on the water quality of our local streams and creeks. Remember that while the individual household might contribute only minor amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or a city is serious.

## ***Are you polluting our waterways?***



Pet waste does not make a good fertilizer. Actually it can be harmful to your lawn, causing burns and unsightly discoloring.

Beyond your grass, it has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans.

Dog feces are one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:

- Heartworms
- Whipworms
- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Parvo
- Corona
- Giardiasis
- Salmonellosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Campylobacteriosis

## ***Water Quality***

In addition to the risk of diseases, the organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality. The decay of the pet waste in our waterways uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. This process in warm water temperatures of summer can kill fish and other aquatic life.



Managing pet waste properly is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our surface waters. Proper individual actions can result in significant water quality improvements when carried out by the majority of citizens. Unlike some forms of storm water pollutants, the individual citizen of our community can easily and economically manage pet waste.